HOLSWORTHY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

HIGH STREET,

HOLSWORTHY.

Tel: Holsworthy 336

Annual Report

of the Medical Officer of Health

1967

Medical Officer of Health - E. Williams, M.R.C.S.,L.R.C.P.,D.P.H.,

Senior Public Health Inspector - C.J.Smith, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector - T.C.J.White, M.A.P.H.I. Until. 31.3.67

R.D.J.Pyman,M.A.P.H.I., A.M.R.S.H. From 1.5.67.

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Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1967.

The population figure for the Rural District as given by the Registrar General (estimated) is 8,330 which is slightly less than that for the previous year (8,380).

Total births for the year was 115 with 99 deaths. There were two deaths of infants under 1 year of age - both were due to congenital abnormalities. No deaths occured during pregnancy or childbirth.

There were 88 infectious disease notifications received during the year, 81 of these being measles. There were 4 cases of salmonella typhimurium, one believed to be contracted whilst on holiday on the Continent, the remaining 3 cases occured in one family which lived on a farm. It was most likely that the infection arose from the animals. The disease started in early July and although the patients soon recovered from their illness they continued to excrete the organisms until the latter part of October thus being carriers of the infection for quite a considerable time. The affected children were therefore excluded from school during this period.

There were nine outbreaks of salmenella infection amongst calves in 9 different farms. These were reported by the Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The farms concerned were informed of the danger of spread of the infection to humans and were advised accordingly.

There were 3 instances of Undulant Fever (abortus fever in cattle) as having occured in males during the year. All were employed in close contact with cattle, and whilst the infection may be contracted through drinking infected milk there is little doubt that their infection occured as a result of direct contact.

No cases of tuberculosis of the lung were notified and no cases of TB glands and TB bones and joints reported - the latter type of infections having virtually disappeared since the eradication of tuberculosis in cattle.

No outbreaks of food poisoning occured and there were no cases of infantile paralyses or poliomyelites.

I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Council for their kindness shown to me at all times and to thank the Clerk and Officials for their willing assistance and co-operation.

E. Williams

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres		97,504
Population (Registrar General's mid-year estimate)		8,330
Number of inhabitated houses		2,925
Number of Council Houses owned		348
Density of persons per house		2.9
Rateable Value (at 31st March, 1967)		£149,865
Value of Penny Rate (Estimate Year to 31st March, 1968)		£594
Area Comparability Factors:-	Births	1.16
	Deaths	0.81

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births -	
Number	115
Rate per 1,000 population	13.8
Rate per 1,000 population, adjusted by Comp.Factor	16.0
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births	7.8%
Stillbirths -	
Number	2
Rate per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births	17
Total Live & Still Births	117
Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year)	2
Infant Mortality Rates -	
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	17
Legit " " " " Legit. " "	9.3
Illegit." " " " Illegit. " "	111.0

VITAL STATISTICS Cont.

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births)	8.7
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births)	NIL
Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths, and Deaths under week combined, per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births)	17
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion -	
Number of Deaths	NIL
Rate per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births	NIL
Deaths	99
Death Rate per 1,000 population	11.9
Death Rate per 1,000 population adjusted by Comp. Factor	9.6

BIRTHS

During the year there were 115 live births.

	Males	Females	Total
Live Births			
Legitimate	47	59	106
Illegitimate	5	4	9
			115

Live birth rate per 1,000 population adjusted	16.0
Birth Rate (England and Wales)	17.7

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
			2

Still birth rate per 1,000 population	17.

DEATHS

	Males	Females	Total
	53	46	99

Death rate per 1,000 population (adjusted	9.6
Death rate (England and Wales)	11.7

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Males	Females
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung and Bronchus	3	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	9	2
Diabetes	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	11
Coronary disease, angina	12	5
Hypertension with heart disease	1	-
Other heart disease	3	6
Other circulatory disease	3	1
Pneumonia	1	1
Bronchitis	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	1
Congenital malformations	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	10
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-
All other accidents	-	1
	53	46

Deaths occurred in the following age groups:-

Under 1 year	2
1 - 4 years	1
5 - 14 years	-
15 - 24 years	-
25 - 34 years	2
35 - 44 years	-
45 - 54 years	2
55 - 64 years	21
65 - 74 years	31
75+ years	40

Infant Mortality Rate

During the year 2 infants died under the age of 1 year

	Male and Female	
Legitimate	-	1
Illegitimate	1	-

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births 17

Cancer Deaths

There were 19 deaths from Cancer during the year.

	Male	Female
Stomach	-	3
Lungs and Bronchus	3	1
Breast	-	1
Uterus	-	-
Other	9	2
		Total 19.

Infectious Diseases

Measles	81
Acute Primary Pneumonia	2
Dysentry	1
Salmonella Typhimurium	4

There were no cases of tuberculosis notified during the year. There were no cases of food poisoning reported.

National Assistance Act 1948, Section 47 and Amendment Act 1951

This section deals with the compulsory removal of elderly persons to a County Welfare House. It concerns those who are living alone in insanitary conditions and who are suffering from grave chronic disease and are not receiving proper care and attention from others.

No cases were dealt with under this Section during the year.

Food Poisoning.

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have pleasure in presenting this Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department during 1967.

Certain changes occured during the year in both the district and the department. The most significant to the populace being the closure of the railways during late 1966. Although this is not a public health matter it affected the public generally more than any other item during the year.

Towards the latter part of the year the slaughterhouse at Halwill Junction was closed down by the firm who opened new premises at Torrington. Whilst this was considered to be a further industrial loss to the area it was essential in order for the firm to comply with the Ministry requirements concerning such establishments.

A departmental change came about when the post of Additional Public Health Inspector was vacated in March by Mr. T.C.J.White who left this Authority. One month later the position was filled by Mr. R.D.J. Pyman.

Until the closure of the slaughterhouse at Halwill, Meat Inspection took predominance over other duties although work under the Housing Acts and in particular Improvement Grant continued to be maintained. Further details of these and all other duties are included in this report.

I have to extend my gratitutde to the Council's Officers and Staff for their co-operation and courtesy shown to me during the year, and in particular to Mr. R.D.J.Pyman for his loyal service and support.

C. J. SMITH

Senior Public Health Inspector.

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS MADE

	Visits
Meat Inspection	390
Public Health Act	37
Housing Acts	38
Improvement Grants	221
Building Regulations	89
Drainage	16
Water Supplies	30
Refuse Tips	13
Offices Shops and Railway Premises	37
Food Premises	7
Food Inspection	11
Bakehouses	1
Insect Pest and Rodent Control	27
Caravans	7
Disease of Animals	3
Nuisances	20
Factories	-
Petroleum	40
Miscellaneous	26
Compulsory Improvement	25
Infectious Diseases	27
Food Sampling	4

HOUSING

The following is a list of houses provided by the Council :-

Pre-war :

Holsworthy - Foresters Road	17
Dobles Terrace	6
Pins Park	8
Milton Damerel - Venn Green	2
Chilsworthy - Newcourt	2
Bridgerule - Littlebridge	2
Pyworthy - Derriton Road	2
	39

Post-war :-

Holsworthy - Pins Park	10
Glebeland	78
Stanhope Close	48
Ashwater - Manor Park	10
Black Torrington - Bowhay	10
Bradford - Queens Park	8
Bradworthy - Tuckers Park and Westcroft	28
Bridgerule - Bridgepark	20
Clawton - Claw Park	14
Halwill - Holywell Park	12
Halwill - Fir Park	2
Halwill - Woodlands	6
Chilsworthy - Quarry Park	4
Milton Damerel - Venn Green	4
Milton Damerel - Beech Park	6
Pyworthy - Derriton Road	12
Sutcombe - [illegible] Park	7
Tetcott - Lana Park	4
Thornbury - Dennis Close	4
West Putford - Sessacott	2
	289

Plus houses taken over from Broadwoodwidger R.D.C.

Jays Cross - St. Giles	2
Pinslow Cross - St. Giles	4
Tor View - Woodley Park	4
Ivy House - Broadwoodwidger	2
East Panson - St. Giles	2
Sharon Park - Virginstowe	2
South View - Box's Shop	2
Moor View - Tredown	2
	20

Inspections made under the Housing Act 1957 resulted in Closing Orders being made in respect of 5 properties.

A further 7 properties were brought up to standard by informal action and the owners took advantage of the Standard Grant scheme to include all the required facilities.

Houses completed during the year were:-

a) By the Rural District Council - 8

b) By private enterprise - 30

Number on list at end of 1967 after transfer of new tenancies and removal from list of persons having left the district :- 134

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

40 applications for Standard Grant were received during the year which were all approved with one exception. All applications were for improvement to the full standard and included in the majority of cases the provision of a septic tank and bathroom extension. The total amount of grant paid was £8,041.

Only 4 applications for Discretionary Grant were received all of which were approved. Payment of £400 was made in respect of the only dwelling completed.

Although every encouragement was given by the Council for Discretionary Grants the number received during the year was again disappointing. Many inquiries were received from the public but were not pursued with applications when it was known that the maximum grant available was £400. This is considered to be an unrealistic figure in view of the amount of work generally required to attain the "Twelve Point" standard and the comparatively high cost involved.

HOUSING ACT 1964
Compulsory Improvement

Representations under Section 19 of the Housing Act 1964, were received from the tenants of 4 dwellings for improvement to the full standard. From correspondence with the owners (British Rail) it was obvious that improvement would not be secured without action being taken by the Local Authority. In addition proposals to sell the dwellings to each individual owner were unsuccessful.

Immediate Improvement Notices were served during December setting out the minimum works required. Counter Notices were served under Section 59(1) by the owners requiring the Council to purchase the properties and then ultimately to carry out the improvements.

RENT ACT 1957

No action was deemed necessary under the Act during the year.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955
FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960
FOOD HYGIENE (MARKET STALLS AND DELIVERY VEHICLES) REGULATIONS 1966

The opportunity to carry out general inspections was again limited due to the amount of time spent on Meat Inspection. Matters relating to Food Hygiene were given attention whenever premises were visited in connection with other matters e.g. Offices Shops and Railway Premises Act.

Legislation which affected Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles came into force on the 1st January. All known owners of such mobile shops were circularised and informed of the relevant details. Inspections of vehicles were made whenever they were encountered operating within the district.

In order that the stall holders attending the weekly market controlled by the Council, could comply with the regulations it was agreed that a number of hand washing units should be purchased and made available for a small hire charge to each vendor handling food. However this idea was not put into operation as only a few types of wash hand units at a reasonable cost were available at that time. No suitable arrangements for the disposal of wast water from these units could be arranged economically apart from discharge onto the ground.

After further consideration two toilets and facilities for equipment and handwashing were constructed at a place readily accessible and for the sole use of stallholders.

No prosecutions were deemed necessary during the period under review.

FOOD PREMISES IN THE AREA

The following number of Food Premises are subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960.

A	(i)	Bakehouses	2
		Bakers Shops	2
		Butchers Shops	9
		Cafes, Hotels, Restaurants, Fish Salons	8
		Confectioners	5
		Greengrocers	1
		Grocers and Provision Shops	25
		Market	1
	(ii)	The number of premises fitted to comply with regulation 16 (wash hand basins) is 47	

FOOD PREMISES IN THE AREA (Contd)

(iii) The number of premises to which regulation 19 (facilities for washing food and equipment) applies is 49.

(iv) The number of premises fitted to comply with regulation 19 is 47.

B. Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations 1963

No egg pasteurisation plants are in existence within the district.

C. Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing premises operating in the area.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

During the first part of the year a slight increase in the throughput at both Halwill and Holsworthy Slaughterhouses was noted and would no doubt have been maintained, but for the closure of the premises at Halwill.

Further minor improvements were made at Holsworthy Slaughterhouse in an effort to maintain a reasonable standard with a basically unsuitable building and layout. Negotiations to purchase the lease were continued between the occupier and the owners, British Rail, with a view to more extensive alterations being carried out when the occupier has complete control. The throughput at these premises showed an increase during the year.

Details of the number slaughtered and the parts or organs condemned are given in the table on the following page.

DETAILS OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND PARTS CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	TOTAL
Number Killed	330	2	134	38644	24767	63877
Number Inspected	330	2	134	38644	24767	63877
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI						
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	1	21	363	38	
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	132	-	36	3711	2946	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci.	40%	50%	42.5%	10.55%	12.17%	
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY						
Whole carcase condemned	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	321	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil	50%	Nil	Nil	1.302%	
CYSTICERCOSIS						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Percentage of Bovines inspected affected with Cysticercus Bovis	.303%	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

This duty is the responsibility of the Council's Surveyor in conjunction with Consulting Civil Engineers.

A number of preliminary reports for schemes within certain villages were prepared during the year for submission to the Ministry but no constructional works were commenced. The need for sewerage facilities in the parishes of Pyworthy and Halwill are still considered to be urgently required as the meagre existing systems are grossly overloaded.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Work in connection with Refuse Collection and Disposal is carried out under the direct supervision of the Surveyor. A kerbside collection is undertaken and disposal is carried out by crude tipping in each of the five tips within the area.

Water Supplies

A mains supply of water is available to the majority of the district being supplied by the North Devon Water Board.

Certain isolated properties are still dependant on a well supply and samples are taken for bacteriological analysis on behalf of the occupier whenever the opportunity arises. Invariably the results obtained are very poor and advice to improve the source is given, whenever necessary.

Rodent Control

Periodical baiting and treatment of sewers and refuse tips is undertaken by the Council but no service to the general public is available as the Council do not employ a Rodent Operator.

PETROLEUM LICENCES

36 premises are licenced for petroleum spirit. The revenue to this Council from fees paid during the year amounted to £31. 15. 0.

OFFICES SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

At the close of the year the number of premises registered under the Act was 103. Of these 37 were given a general inspection bringing the total of premises visited in order to ascertain what steps were necessary to comply with the requirements, to 95.

The following tables show the Registrations and General Inspections made and an Analysis of Contraventions found.

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Number of registered premises at end of year	Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	Nil	38	4
Retail Shops	2	37	10
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	Nil	5	2
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	Nil	4	1
Fuel storage depots	Nil	Nil	-
TOTAL:	2	84	17

ANALYSIS OF CONTRAVENTIONS

Section	Number of Contraventions found		Section	Number of Contraventions found	
4	Cleanliness	-	13	Sitting facilities	-
5	Overcrowding	-	14	Seats (Sedentary workers)	-
6	Temperature	5	15	Eating Facilities	1
7	Ventilation	-	16	Floors, passage & stairs	7
8	Lighting	-	17	Fencing exposed parts machinery	2
9	Sanitary conveniences	4	18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	-
10	Washing Facilities	5	19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	-
11	Supply of drinking water	2	23	Prohibition of heavy work	-
12	Clothing accommodation	1	24	First aid General provisions	5
				TOTAL	32

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Part 1 of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

			Number of		
(i)	Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(1)	Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(11)	Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	35	-	-	-
(111)	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL	35	-	-	-